

State Ethics Commission
Summary Commission Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2007
200 Piedmont Avenue
Suite 1416 – West Tower
Atlanta, Georgia

The following minutes have not been formally adopted; therefore, are not official until the date they are adopted by the Commission.

Present:

William H. Jordan, Chairman
Emmett Bowers, Member
Griffin B. Pollard, Jr., Member
James C. Gatewood, Member

Absent: Sonny Watson, Vice Chairman

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:40 a.m.

The minutes were read and adopted.

Moved by Mr. Jordan
Carried unanimously

Seconded by Mr. Pollard

OLD BUSINESS

In the Matter of Cathy Cox (2005-0104)

The Commission broke down allegations 1-8 and found reasonable grounds to believe that the Ethics in Government Act had been violated in allegation 2 and 3 setting them down in their entirety. Allegations 4, 5 and 6 were set down in part. The Commission determined that the criteria for dismissal was met in allegations 1, 7, and 8 and were dismissed in their entirety.

In the Matter of Ken B. Hodges III (2005-0025)

The Commission determined that all criteria for dismissal of the allegation contained in the complaint were met; however, the Commission ordered the Respondent to amend his disclosure reports within 30 days to properly account for approximately \$24,000 of contributions and expenditures not previously reported.

PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

The Commission found no reasonable grounds to believe that the Ethics in Government Act had been violated in the following cases, which were dismissed.

In the Matter of Rosanna Szabo (2006-0044)
In the Matter of William Edwards (2007-0010)
In the Matter of Roger Garrison (2007-0013)
In the Matter of Vernon Jones (2005-0107)

The Commission tabled the following cases

In the Matter of Neal O'Brien (2007-0012a)
In the Matter of Bill Lusk (2007-0012b)

WAIVER OF PRELIMINARY HEARING

The Respondents in the following cases waived their preliminary hearing.

In the Matter of Clinton Young (2007-0014)
In the Matter of Tracy Bennett (2006-0064)
In the Matter of Mark T. Grant (2006-0061)
In the Matter of Lawrence Kaiser (2006-0067)
In the Matter of Archbold Hospital (2007-0006)
In the Matter of Jerry N. Williams (2007-0009)
In the Matter of Larry Mann (2007-0016)
In the Matter of Chandler Carter Haydon (2006-0065)
In the Matter of Cindye Coates (2007-0005)
In the Matter of Wesley Nash (2007-0015a)
In the Matter of William Fallin (2006-0066)

REQUEST FOR FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

There was a finding of probable cause to open an investigation on the following cases.

In the Matter of Raymond L. Davis (PC2007-0009)
In the Matter of Randal Mangham (PC2007-0010)
In the Matter of Jay Neal (PC2007-0011)
In the Matter of Ron Sailor (PC2007-0012)
In the Matter of Pam Stephenson (PC2007-0013)
In the Matter of Nadine Thomas (PC2007-0014)
In the Matter of William McKinney (PC2007-0016)
In the Matter of J. Craig Gordon (PC2007-0017)
In the Matter of Georgia Case Management Associates, LLC (PC2007-0018)
In the Matter of Carolyn Capps-Dillard (PC2007-0019)

CONSENT ORDER

The Commission accepted the following Consent Orders.

In the Matter of Committee to Continue Baldwin County's Progress (2005-0101), assessing a civil penalty in the amount of \$750.

In the Matter of Reginald Boddie (2005-0051), assessing a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,000.

In the Matter of Leah Sears (2004-0049, 2005-0065), assessing civil penalties in the amount of \$3,100.

In the Matter of Rachael Kelley Jackson (PC2007-0004), assessing a civil penalty of \$5,000 and \$2,729.32 to the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services.

In the Matter of Victor Hill (2007-0011), assessing a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,000.

In the Matter of ABATE of Georgia Inc. Motorcyclists PAC (2006-0005), assessing late fees in the amount of \$250.00 and a civil penalty of \$1,750.

In the Matter of Charles Bannister (2006-0031), assessing late fees in the amount of \$150 and a civil penalty of \$3,000.

In the Matter of Charles Phillips (2006-0106), assessing a civil penalty in the amount of \$500.

In the Matter of James Toby Roberts (2006-0053, 0062 & 0063), assessing a civil penalty in the amount of \$9,300.

CONSENT ORDER

The commission accepted the following Compliance Order.

In the Matter of Kevin Kenerly (2006-0055)

OTHER BUSINESS

Request for an Advisory Opinion regarding a public official or candidate's use of campaign funds to make a contribution to a legal defense fund that has been established by a political party for the sole purpose of paying legal fees arising out of a challenge to the election of the political party's officers.

Adopted

Final Rules (Chapters 1-3) were Adopted

Provisional Adoption of Rules (Chapters 4-6)

Vendor Gift e-filing
Adopted

The Commission formally adopted e-filing as the prescribed format for vendor gift files, lobbyist report filing and Personal Financial Disclosure filing

Resolutions for Brian Hess, DelRico Davis and Reginald Boswell, on receiving a national ranking of number 1 in electronic filing, were read and accepted by the commission.

Report of the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary addressed the success of the staff in completing all backlogged cases. The Commission has begun running random audits which resulted in ten Probable Cause cases being opened for investigation. In the future the Commission will be hearing both complaints and probable cause cases.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:42.